

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein at least one layer of the free flowing curtain of step (a) has, at a temperature of 25°C and at a shear rate of 500,000 s⁻¹, a high shear viscosity of at least about 75 mPa.s.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) A method of producing a coated paper or paperboard, but excluding photographic papers, comprising the steps of:
(a) forming a free flowing curtain comprising at least one layer, whereby a composition forming at least one layer of the free flowing curtain has a Shear-Thickening Index, defined as the ratio of the viscosity at 30,000 s⁻¹ to the viscosity at 3,000 s⁻¹ at 25°C, of at least about 1.2, and
(b) contacting the curtain with a continuous web substrate of basepaper and paperboard.
5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein the free flowing curtain of step (a) is a multilayer free flowing curtain.
6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein the free flowing curtain of step (a) comprises a top layer ensuring printability.
7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein the free flowing curtain of step (a) comprises at least 3 layers.
8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein at least one layer of the free flowing curtain of step (a) comprises at least one pigment.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the pigment is selected from the group consisting of clay, kaolin, calcined clay, co-structured pigments, talc, calcium carbonate, titanium dioxide, satin white, synthetic polymer pigment, zinc oxide, barium sulfate, gypsum, silica, alumina trihydrate, mica, and diatomaceous earth.
10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein at least one layer of the free flowing curtain of step (a) comprises at least one pigment having an aspect ratio of at least about 1.5:1.

11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein at least one layer of the free flowing curtain of step (a) comprises a binder.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the binder is selected from the group consisting of styrene-butadiene latex, styrene-acrylate latex, styrene-butadiene-acrylonitrile latex, styrene-acrylate-acrylonitrile latex, styrene-butadiene-acrylate-acrylonitrile latex, styrene-maleic anhydride latex, styrene-acrylate-maleic anhydride latex, polysaccharides, proteins, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl acetate, cellulose derivatives and mixtures thereof.
13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein at least one layer of the free flowing curtain of step (a) has a solids content of at least about 30 wt.%.
14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein the free flowing curtain of step (a) has a solids content of at least about 40 wt.%.
15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein at least one layer of the free flowing curtain of step (a) comprises at least one optical brightening agent.
16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein the free flowing curtain of step (a) comprises at least 4 layers.
17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein at least one of the layers of the free flowing curtain of step (a) has a dry coatweight of less than about 10 g/m².
18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein the continuous web substrate of step (b) is neither precoated nor precalendered.
19. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein the continuous web substrate of step (b) has a web velocity of at least about 300 m/min.
20. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein the continuous web substrate of step (b) has a grammage of from about 20 to about 350 g/m².
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein the free flowing curtain of step (a) comprises at least 5 layers.
23. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein the free flowing curtain of step (a) comprises at least 6 layers.
24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~-~~4~~ 4, wherein the continuous web substrate of step (b) has a web velocity of at least about 400 m/min.

25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein the continuous web substrate of step (b) has a web velocity of at least about 500 m/min.
26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4, characterized in that at least one layer of the free flowing curtain of step (a) comprises at least one surfactant.
27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the continuous web substrate has a velocity of at least about 800 m/min.
28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the continuous web substrate has a velocity of at least about 1000 m/min.
29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the curtain is formed with a slot die.
30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the curtain is formed with a slide die.
31. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein at least one layer of the curtain comprises polyethylene oxide.
32. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein the curtain comprises polyethylene oxide in the interface layer.
33. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the pigment comprises synthetic magadiite.
34. (Original) A method of producing a coated paper or paperboard, but excluding photographic papers, comprising the steps of:
(a) forming a free flowing curtain comprising at least one layer, whereby a composition forming at least one layer of the free flowing curtain has a Shear-Blocking Behavior, and
(b) contacting the curtain with a continuous web substrate of basepaper and paperboard.
35. (Cancelled)
- 36-37. (Cancelled)
38. (New) The method of Claim 4 wherein the contacting in step b) is done under conditions such that the average shear rate at a line where the curtain contacts the substrate is at least $3,000 \text{ s}^{-1}$.

39. (New) The method of Claim 38 wherein the contacting in step b) is done under conditions such that the average shear rate at a line where the curtain contacts the substrate is at least $10,000 \text{ s}^{-1}$.

40. (New) The method of Claim 34 wherein the contacting in step b) is done under conditions such that the average shear rate at a line where the curtain contacts the substrate is at least $3,000 \text{ s}^{-1}$.

41. (New) The method of Claim 40 wherein the contacting in step b) is done under conditions such that the average shear rate at the line where the curtain contacts the substrate is at least $10,000 \text{ s}^{-1}$.

42. (New) The method of Claim 4 wherein at least one layer of the free flowing curtain of step (a) has, at a temperature of 25°C and at a shear rate of $500,000 \text{ s}^{-1}$, a high shear viscosity of at least about $50 \text{ mPa}\cdot\text{s}$.